



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

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Week Ending September 23, 2007

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Excellent week for Field Work: The week started off with cooler temperatures state wide, but quickly warmed up by week's end. The cooler air improved soil and pasture conditions. Few cloud systems allowed plenty of field work to be completed. Dry weather has affected several crops, which may give a smaller yield than average. Overall, 6 days were suitable for field work and principal farm activities included fall plowing, filling silos, mowing pastures, sowing wheat, repairing equipment, spreading lime and fertilizer, making hay, chopping corn for silage, planting wheat and barley, and harvesting oats, corn, potatoes, tobacco, apples, and peaches.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending September 23, 2007

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
26	29	44	1

Crops: Ninety-four percent of the corn has now entered the dent stage. This is 3 percentage points higher than this time last year and 8 points higher than the 5-year average. Sixty-eight percent of the corn crop has reached maturity. This is 15 percentage points higher than the previous week. It's also 15 points higher than the 5-year average respectively. Corn harvest is now underway, as 20 percent of the crop is now harvested. Corn conditions show that 62 percent of the corn crop is in good or excellent condition. Sixty-nine percent of the corn for silage has been harvested. This is 10 points lower than this time last year and 2 points lower than the 5-year average. Fifty-nine percent of the soybeans are in good or excellent condition. Harvesting for soybeans is starting ahead of schedule, as 5 percent of the crop is now harvested, ahead of the previous year and the 5-year average. Fourteen percent of the wheat crop has been planted. This is lower than this time last year and the five year average. Twenty-nine percent of the barley crop has been harvested, just slightly behind last year and the 5-year average. Forty-two percent of the potato crop has been harvested. Currently our potato harvest is 19 percentage points behind the 5-year average, but only 6 points behind this time last year. Ninety percent of the tobacco crop has been harvested. This is 1 percentage point lower than the previous year and 4 points lower than the 5-year average. Eighty-seven percent of the hay made was in good or excellent condition as 53 percent of the fourth cuttings of alfalfa have been completed. Eighty-eight percent of the second cutting of timothy hay has also been completed.

Sixty-four percent of the apples have now been harvested, which is 1 point higher than this time last year and 13 points higher than the 5-year average. The grape harvest is slowly starting as 7 percent of the crop has been harvested.

Livestock: Twenty-seven percent of the state's pastures are in good or excellent condition. Farmers have reported the best pastures in certain areas than in recent years. Overall pasture conditions were reported as follows: very poor 21%, poor 28%, fair 24%, good 26%, and excellent 1%.

U.S. as of September 18, 2007: Crops continued to advance toward maturity despite much cooler weather. Warm weather continued for much of the week, but markedly cooler air overspread the region. However, the high percentage of corn dented and soybeans with leave turning yellow should help to minimize the effect of the cold snap on crops. Corn and soybean development was far enough along in these areas to avoid frost damage while winter wheat planting continued. Tropical systems brought abundant showers aiding soil moisture but delaying harvest activities.

Corn: Acreage of corn at or beyond the dent stage, at 96 percent, was the same as last year but 6 points ahead of normal. Corn that had matured, at 64 percent, was 15 points ahead of last year and 18 points ahead of normal. Fourteen percent of the crop had been reaped by producers, ahead of last year and normal by 6 and 5 points, respectively. Elsewhere, at least 80 percent of the acreage had reached the dent stage. The crop rapidly matured in the Corn Belt and adjacent areas of the Great Plains. Conditions allowed the crop to mature at or ahead of normal in all States with development ranging from 10 to 44 points ahead of normal throughout most of the Corn Belt and northern Great Plains. Corn harvest was underway in all states.

Soybeans: Fifty-five percent of acreage had reached the leaf-dropping stage, 10 points ahead of last year's pace, and 8 points ahead of normal. Soybean producers had reaped 4 percent of the crop as harvest was just getting underway. Leaf-dropping mostly remained ahead of the 5-year average. Harvest was near to slightly behind normal in all States

Winter Wheat: Fourteen percent of winter wheat acreage had been planted, 3 and 6 points behind last year and the 5-year average, respectively.

Weather Data For Week Ending September 23, 2007

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - September 23, 2007					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	82	46	66	4	0.00	0	18.17	-3.52	54	2,706	312	4,296
Franklin	83	40	62	2	0.00	0	18.50	-5.45	66	2,524	298	4,136
Meadville	80	42	63	4	0.00	0	16.79	-7.07	68	2,561	521	4,160
Mercer	84	38	62	2	0.00	0	20.61	-2.21	63	2,482	277	4,086
Springboro	80	38	61	-2	0.00	0	19.77	-1.38	79	2,211	-149	3,784
Warren	84	39	62	3	0.00	0	22.86	-1.16	66	2,304	148	3,889
North Central												
Bradford Region	77	30	57	2	0.00	0	20.64	-3.38	74	1,793	227	3,308
Emporium	84	38	60	3	0.00	0	24.66	0.86	65	2,353	581	3,955
Kane	82	31	57	2	0.00	0	24.05	-0.38	67	1,813	280	3,338
Laporte	78	36	58	-3	0.00	0	18.58	-3.53	70	2,122	-84	3,674
Lock Haven	86	40	61	1	0.00	0	14.85	-6.93	52	2,786	444	4,400
Port Allegany	81	36	58	2	0.00	0	19.20	-3.51	63	1,989	263	3,532
Renovo	86	39	61	1	0.00	0	20.53	-1.25	57	2,654	312	4,267
Ridgway	82	33	58	2	0.00	0	19.56	-4.24	70	2,054	282	3,622
Stevenson Dam	86	41	62	6	0.00	0	17.25	-6.55	58	2,490	718	4,089
Towanda	84	36	60	0	0.00	0	15.31	-3.09	64	2,339	117	3,904
Wellsboro	80	33	57	2	0.00	0	22.50	4.03	71	1,961	294	3,498
Williamsport	87	41	63	1	0.00	0	16.08	-5.32	56	2,977	395	4,615
Northeast												
Hawley	83	34	59	2	0.01	1	20.69	-0.21	59	2,190	283	3,766
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	83	37	62	2	0.00	0	19.03	-1.26	54	2,707	258	4,323
Susquehanna	82	37	59	3	0.00	0	22.97	0.70	65	2,287	478	3,863
West Central												
Butler	83	38	61	0	0.00	0	18.73	-3.92	62	2,510	202	4,120
New Castle	88	39	64	3	0.00	0	18.28	-2.41	58	2,774	464	4,395
Slippery Rock	87	37	63	4	0.00	0	20.92	-1.15	62	2,654	578	4,270
Central												
Altoona/Blair	83	36	59	-3	0.00	0	19.10	-0.58	65	2,630	176	4,239
DuBois	83	36	62	3	0.00	0	18.95	-3.82	73	2,408	283	4,003
Lewistown	88	39	62	-2	0.00	0	20.34	-0.80	58	2,831	137	4,455
Middletown	86	46	65	0	0.01	1	19.71	-1.29	50	3,380	341	5,029
Prince Gallitzi	83	35	57	-2	0.00	0	20.57	-4.80	57	2,224	247	3,804
Selinsgrove	90	39	62	1	0.00	0	14.86	-7.08	51	2,800	281	4,415
State College	85	39	60	-1	0.00	0	17.14	-2.75	58	2,810	389	4,428
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	84	39	63	-1	0.13	1	21.58	-1.43	63	2,988	210	4,618
Lehighton	82	41	59	-4	0.09	1	25.52	2.68	67	2,607	-72	4,225
Matamoras	82	37	59	-2	0.00	0	23.19	0.09	60	2,394	-28	3,996
Mt_Pocono	78	36	58	3	0.00	0	21.86	-2.71	74	2,184	527	3,748
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	86	44	66	4	0.00	0	19.99	-0.99	65	3,099	630	4,737
Derry	85	38	62	2	0.00	0	29.66	7.78	60	2,597	265	4,207
Myersdale	81	33	57	-5	0.00	0	19.59	-4.25	64	2,043	-257	3,601
Mount Pleasant	85	36	60	1	0.00	0	23.89	-1.01	63	2,539	453	4,157
Pittsburgh Intl	85	43	65	2	0.00	0	19.33	-0.41	57	2,995	410	4,628
Connellsville	85	41	65	3	0.00	0	22.88	-0.38	72	2,938	306	4,571
Waynesburg	86	38	62	1	0.00	0	21.18	-0.39	63	2,712	315	4,338
South Central												
Biglerville	86	41	63	-2	0.00	0	16.74	-3.03	51	3,106	136	4,748
Everett	82	36	58	-5	0.00	0	19.86	0.74	63	2,281	-166	3,881
Hanover	86	37	62	-4	0.07	1	15.86	-3.91	50	3,060	90	4,693
Harrisburg_AP	87	42	65	-1	0.00	0	16.76	-4.24	43	3,275	229	4,927
South Mountain	83	37	59	-4	0.00	0	19.24	-0.44	55	2,471	24	4,073
York	86	37	62	-4	0.04	1	19.84	-1.34	51	2,976	19	4,616
Southeast												
Green Lane	83	42	63	0	0.08	1	22.93	0.64	59	3,039	381	4,670
Hamburg	83	42	63	2	0.01	1	22.47	-3.15	59	3,104	677	4,741
West_Chester	85	39	62	-4	0.10	2	24.30	0.11	52	2,973	21	4,600
Lancaster	85	42	63	-2	0.04	1	21.85	-0.57	49	3,065	255	4,704
Neshaminy Falls	84	41	62	-3	0.07	1	29.08	3.26	59	2,858	82	4,475
New Holland	87	42	64	0	0.20	1	22.64	0.22	55	3,164	354	4,796
Philadelphia	84	50	68	2	0.18	1	22.75	0.86	49	3,618	392	5,280
Philadelphia NE	85	47	66	-1	0.06	1	23.11	1.22	59	3,554	328	5,216
Reading	85	42	64	1	0.07	2	21.81	-2.16	60	3,221	460	4,863
Valley Forge Na	83	37	63	-3	0.11	1	23.47	0.13	63	3,033	-90	4,672
Willow Grove	84	44	64	1	0.12	1	22.59	-3.23	64	3,193	417	4,830

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.

Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.

Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.

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Internet Reporters' Comments, By County:

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

ADAMS COUNTY, Judy A Behney (FSA) - Adams County had a variety of temperatures this past week. At the beginning of the week, morning temperatures dipped to 38 degrees and then by the end of the week they were 48 degrees. Daytime temps at beginning of week were 70's and now end of week around 80 degrees. No rainfall has been received this week.

Corn silage continues to be harvested. Some corn for grain has been started to be combined this week also. Corn is still the crop that has been most affected from the drought. Soybeans are still growing. Some early soybeans are losing their leaves and drying down. Later soybeans are still pretty green and if the temperatures continue to drop could be affected by a frost. Fall plowing is in progress and wheat and barley are being seeded. Producers are concerned about the lack of moisture in the soil as they are seeding wheat and barley.

Peach harvest has been completed. Apples continue to be harvested. Apples are smaller in size this year and will affect the marketing of apples and prices the producers will receive. The trees seem to be pretty full crop with branches hanging down. The apples are enjoying the cooler temperatures this past week. The apple growing area of the county is starting to prepare for the National Apple Harvest Festival to be held Oct 6-7 13-14 to celebrate the apples grown in the county.

Pumpkins are being harvested with a light crop. The drought has affected them greatly unless they were irrigated.

Overall the producers in the county are very busy with field work during this busy time of the year. Some moisture could still do the county's soil moisture level a lot for the future.

ADAMS COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - No rain again this week. Last measurable rain was 30 days ago. Clear dry sunny days with moderate wind has left the crops in severe drought stress again. Corn is drying down to the point that fields designated for high moisture corn are now going to be harvested as dry grain. Soybeans are nearly ready and some have been harvested with very poor yields. Apple harvest is moving along. Yields are not what they are expected due to small size.

ALLEGHENY COUNTY, Albert Allison - Finally dry enough to dig potatoes. Soybeans are starting to mature.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA) - Harvesting of potatoes and corn silage was the main activities in the county. Winter wheat is being planted on the potato and corn silage ground.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - Dry week. We need some rain.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle(NRCS) - Excellent harvest week for corn silage. Field conditions are the best they have been for years around the county. Producers are making good time not having to deal with mud and soft spots in fields. Some dry hay and baleage was also being finished up this week.

DAUPHIN COUNTY, Paul H. Craig (EXT) - Increasing concerns about drought conditions and extremely low levels of soil moisture. Corn crop is rapidly shutting down and does not show drought stress. Double crop soybeans are wilting and even established alfalfa fields are wilting down in many areas of fields as surface and subsurface soil moisture levels are depleted. Silage harvest winding down, planting of barley has begun and manure hauling is in full swing.

FOREST COUNTY, Thomas Tanner (FSA) - Farmers harvesting hay and harvesting corn silage. The counties are in need of rain.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Burell Whitworth Jr - Harvesting of crops is in full swing. Spreading manure, planting hay, liming fields, planting cover crops and installing conservation practices were among activities carried out by farmers last week.

POTTER COUNTY, David Stratton - A very good week for fieldwork. Still, extremely dry weather. Good quality hay and haylage are being made this week. Some corn silage is also being made.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - A fine week for field activities. The hot dry days allowed for activities such as silo filling and haymaking to take place at a rapid pace. A significant amount of excellent quality hay was made and many farmers took advantage of the opportunity. The silo filling is progressing very well; however, it is requiring more acres to fill than expected. The early sown small grains have emerged and look good. The corn for grain is drying down very nice, while the soybeans are yellowing and dropping their leaves. Many fields are showing weed problems as a result of poor stands and dry conditions following the application of herbicides. The main activities continue to be silo filling and haymaking.

TIOGA COUNTY, Clair W Zerby - Chopping corn; finishing late hay harvest; rotating pastures; spreading lime, fertilizer, and manure. Many acres were sowed for wheat the past week. Corn silage harvest is well underway. No corn for grain harvested yet. Soybean leaves are turning and dropping. Hay is nearly finished for the year. Pastures have improved from last week with good rains and cooler temperatures.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr - Dry, warm conditions are continuing making for excellent forage and corn silage harvesting. Some of the best quality hay of the season was made this week. A small number of producers are taking advantage of the outstanding harvest conditions and high prices. Starting a very early dry shelled corn harvest. Pasture growth has slowed and the grass is starting to brown.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending September 23, 2007

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Fall plowing	43	44	34
Corn, dent	94	91	86
Corn, mature	68	65	53
Corn, harvested	20	17	17
Corn silage, harvested	69	79	71
Barley, planted	29	30	34
Wheat, planted	14	19	15
Soybeans, harvested	5	3	3
Tobacco, harvested	90	91	94
Potatoes, harvested	42	48	61
Alfalfa, 4th cutting	53	59	53
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	88	94	91
Apples, harvested	64	63	51
Grapes, harvested	7	8	19

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending September 23, 2007

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	7	10	21	48	14
Soybeans	8	11	22	39	20
Quality of hay made	0	1	12	46	41
Pasture	21	28	24	26	1

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